

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 28+, as follows:

a' "U.S. patent number ~~5,374,819~~5,734,819 (the '819 patent) discloses a software program executing on a CPU which provides system operation validation in order to prevent the software program from executing on unlicensed computer systems. The validation method requires reading a unique chip identifier (chip ID) stored in a system device, and a corresponding chip ID and an encrypted code stored in a non-volatile memory. The encrypted code, termed a message authentication code or MAC, is generated based on the chip ID using a secret key. The '819 patent relies on uncompromised secrecy of the secret key to prevent tampering which could circumvent the validation process."